

D 5567

MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

S.2, Special Branch

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
FOR A.S.R. REGISTRY.

No. D 5567

Date 1/34

Date January 2, 1934.

Crown British Consulate-General re: A. C. Bekker.

Made by D.S.I. Prokofiev

Forwarded by A. G. Ernest

With reference to the attached letter dated December 19, 1933, from H.B.M. Consulate-General on the subject of A. Bekker, this individual's history and record as known to this office are as follows :-

Alexander Carlovitch (A.C.) Bekker, Russian of Jewish extraction, born October 22, 1894, at Petrograd. He first arrived in Shanghai from Harbin in 1923. On June 29, 1925 he obtained from the former Office of the Special Commissioner for Foreign Affairs for Kiangsu, passport No.587, valid for six months, to enable him to proceed to South Africa via Hongkong, Singapore and Durban. He left Shanghai for the South some time later during the same year and was not heard of until April 8, 1932, when he called at the Russian Emigrants Committee, No.6-A Hongkong Road, for registration. On that occasion he stated that he had returned to Shanghai from Geneva, Switzerland, on April 4, 1932. He gave his profession as that of a journalist and stated that he intended to proceed to Portugal in November of the same year. An attachment to his passport No.587 reads as follows :-

"Passport seen at the Chinese Legation, Copenhagen, Valid for passage to Shanghai on board the s.s. Denmark leaving Copenhagen on August 27, 1930. A new permit shall be obtained from the local authorities on arrival at Shanghai. August 20, 1930. Gratis."

Bekker also produced a League of Nations passport issued in Switzerland, and two certificates of registration with the Russian Emigrants Committees in Paris and Nice respectively. The numbers and the dates of issue of these documents are not available. It is reported that during the course of conversation with various persons Bekker made references to his extensive

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travels both in Europe and Asia. According to him he resided in Palestine for about one year and was obliged to leave that country at the request of the local authorities.

On October 24, 1932, Bekker obtained from the Russian Emigrant Committee a letter to the Shanghai Bureau of Public Safety containing a request to register him as a Russian emigrant and to grant him a passport free of charge. On 6-12-32 he registered with the Bureau (Registration No.19200) and on the same date was granted passport No.1611 to enable him to proceed to Switzerland.

According to officers of the Passport Section of the Public Safety Bureau, a search of records failed to disclose any reference to foreign passport No.5407 issued by the Bureau to Bekker on April 5, 1932 or on some other date.

Bekker left Shanghai for an unknown destination some time during the later part of 1933.

Enquiries show that during the period of his second sojourn in this city he was in very reduced circumstances. On December 4, 1932, he registered with the Associated Charities of Shanghai to which body he applied for help. In the spring of 1933 he obtained an employment with the Canidrome, but was soon dismissed owing, it is reported, to his work having been found unsatisfactory. It is also reported that, as a matter of charity, he was given a chance by a local foreign firm to work as a salesman on a commission basis and that he failed to pay for the goods he had received from the firm.

For some time prior to his departure from Shanghai Bekker lived at Restaurant "Bosfor" (Bosphorus), No. 518 Avenue Joffre, a place known to be used as a rendezvous by various shady

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characters. It is also reported that he made an unsuccessful application to the French Police for transfer of the licence for this restaurant in his name.

It is not known on what means he is travelling. His connections with the Russian newspaper RUL published in Berlin could not be verified. According to our information this newspaper ceased publication some time ago.

It is believed that, being an invalid, Bekker exploits various charitable organizations and individuals in order to be able to continue his travels.

Bekker's description is as follows:-

Age: 39

Height: 5' 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Hair: Dark

Eyes: Brown

Face: Oval.

Distinguishing marks: Left leg amputated.

Speaks English and French.

This is nothing in the Municipal Police records to the detriment of this person.

G. Prokofiev

D. S. I.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

copy forwarded to Mr. Staples
28.7.54
2/1/54

Reg
F.M.
J.W.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. B. REGISTRY

No. D 5567
BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL,

P.O. BOX 229, 20 SHANGHAI, 32

19.12.33.

My dear Givens,

Last month there arrived in Bombay from Singapore by the Motor vessel "Himalaya", a former Russian by the name of A. BEKKER. This man holds a passport issued by the Bureau of Public Safety at Shanghai, which, according to India, is No. 19200, granted by the said Bureau on the 6th December 1932. India also informs me that page 9 of this particular passport contains a British transit visa for Canton via Hongkong, which was granted at Shanghai on the 25th January this year. I have looked up our records and find that such a visa was in point of fact granted, but that it was placed, not on passport No. 19200 as alleged by India, but on Shanghai Bureau of Public Safety passport No. 1611, granted on the same date. Further according to India on the attachment passport No. 19200 (or what is probably more correct Shanghai passport No. 1611) there is a British visa for travel to Bangkok through Hongkong in transit, which was granted by the British Consulate General at Shanghai, on the 6th April '32.

A search of our records discloses that a visa for this journey was in point of fact granted to

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Bekker on that particular date, but on Public Safety Bureau passport No. 5407, issued on the 5th April 1932.

On arrival in India Bekker had no British visa for entry into that country, and although his actions have not been particularly suspicious, I am anxious to discover the correct numbers of any passports which have been issued to him locally by the Public Safety Bureau.

Can you possibly help?

Bekker states that he was at one time a Reporter for the Russian Democratic newspaper "Roul"; This paper is published in Berlin, and Bekker states that he was sent by this newspaper to Manchuria to report on the Sino Japanese situation there.

Is anything known of Bekker in Shanghai?

Any information which you may have I shall be grateful to receive.

Yours sincerely,

H. Wright

T. Givens Esq.,

Asst. Procuror ad lss

S2, For attention please.
Supt. Jan may be able to assist.

JW